



**Leah Cross** | The Salvation Army Angel Tree Program Coordinator  
 700 North Bell Ave • PO Box 742 • Carnegie, PA 15106 • (412) 446-1534  
 Leah.Cross@use.salvationarmy.org • www.wpa.salvationarmy.org

Christmas 2024

Dear Angel Tree Donor,

"When you choose joy, you feel good and when you feel good, you do good and when you do good it reminds others of what joy feels like and it just might inspire them to do the same." --Unknown

Even though all the preparations from decorating to baking, from shopping to wrapping and everything else on your to do list seem to take weeks and months to accomplish, Christmas seems to be all over in the blink of an eye. Before we know it, our family has gone home, dishes are washed, the once full floor filled with presents is empty and it is back to normal everyday life. But keep in mind that when you choose joy that Christmas Spirit remains with you throughout the year. True joy makes you feel something beyond a season and that desire to do good continues into other parts of your life. And just as the quote says, when you do good it inspires others to do the same because they are reminded of that feeling of joy. A true giver chooses also to Love Beyond themselves when giving to others. Our donors inspire us every day to Love Beyond when serving those in need. We Love Beyond today, Love Beyond their circumstances, and Love Beyond Christmas.

The Salvation Army Angel Tree Program has been fulfilling the Christmas wishes of children for well over 40 years and would not be possible without joy seeking givers, donors like you. In spite of rising costs and an ever-changing economy, you each came through. Whether you donated to two or three children or hundreds, each donor is a blessing to every child, every family we serve.

On behalf of the thousands of children we are serving in the Greater Pittsburgh Region during the 2024 Christmas Season, thank you for choosing joy and going above and beyond for these families. Your support helps us to grow and meet the need each year no matter what turns life may take. Thank you for being a part of The Salvation Army Angel Tree Program and giving the children we serve a Christmas to remember. May each of you be blessed with good health and true joy the whole year through, inspiring others to Love Beyond and do good along the way.

Thank you and God bless!

Sincerely,

**Leah Cross**

Angel Tree Coordinator

**Major Jodi Lloyd**

Divisional Program Secretary

ANGEL TREE

## St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Church

1810 Sidney Street Pittsburgh, PA 15203

Web [www.stvladimirpgh.org](http://www.stvladimirpgh.org)

FaceBook [StVladimirUOCPghPa](https://www.facebook.com/StVladimirUOCPghPa)

V. Rev. Father John Haluszczyk, Pastor (412)-513-9148 [otetsivan@gmail.com](mailto:otetsivan@gmail.com)

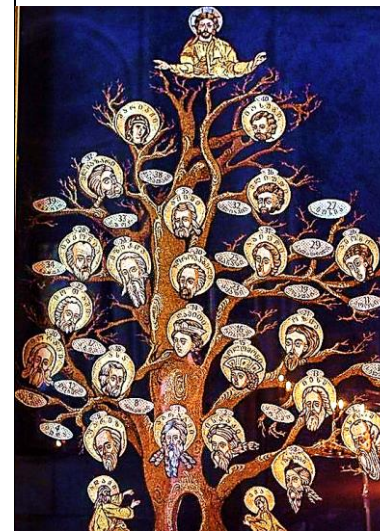
Subdeacon Nathan Haluszczyk Readers: Julian Burgan and Nicholas Sampson

Choral Directors: Mauri Druash-Gladys, Kira Senedak, and Pani Anne Haluszczyk

### Sunday January 5, 2025

28<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / Sunday before the Nativity / Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ

#### On the Sunday before Nativity: the Genealogy of Christ



Genealogies don't mean the same to us as they did for ancient peoples, so the first part of today's Gospel reading may be tedious to modern ears. Most will remember the list of strange names and forget the ending probably because a majority loose focus somewhere around "Amminadab" if not before. By the time we get to the story of Christmas at the end people are a little glassy-eyed.

Both Matthew and Luke include genealogies of Jesus in their Gospels and they differ from one another. No worries. Genealogies were used for a variety of reasons, so it wasn't unusual for a person to have more than one made up to cover their bases. Things like inheritance, land ownership, and vocation were at stake. You had to prove your pedigree!

Since the point was to establish an ancestral link rather than to list all the family names exhaustively, they were not as interested in getting all the names in there just right the way today's genealogists would be. Thinking of the size of

Middle Eastern families that would be almost impossible.

St. Matthew's genealogy emphasizes that Jesus is the Son of David. He begins with David and moves then to Abraham, for Jewish identification and then backward since Abraham came before David! His predominately Jewish audience would be looking for that connection. His aim was to convince the Jews that Jesus was the Messiah and Davidic sonship was essential to do so.

St. Luke emphasizes the Lord's human nature so he begins his genealogy with Adam to be more universal in his message. For his predominately Greek audience that would be significant. Luke points also to the Lord's divine origin. He ends with "Jesus the Son of Adam and the Son of God".

Both genealogies are essential for our understanding of the Incarnation. They complement one another. Jesus is the Son of God and the Son of David, both human and Divine. As a human being he was specifically Jewish. As God He was perfect God.

The real story here is that the Son of God was born at all. If the Son of God had not been born in the flesh, then he could not have been the Son of David. The genealogy tells us that Jesus was a real, live human being with grandparents, uncles, aunts, and probably hundreds of cousins. Tradition tells us that Jesus had half-brothers and sisters since Joseph was a widower and had children from a previous marriage.

Some of the Lord's relatives were righteous people, some were scoundrels. At least one of them was a prostitute. Just like our families! White sheep and black sheep. Jesus was a human being with an all-too-typical human family.

*Continued inside*

November 2024

Congratulations to Kathleen Perdziola professional staff nurse, one of UPMC Presbyterian's latest DAISY Nurse Award winners.



Read the nomination below:

My 19-year-old daughter was thrown from a side-by-side on 7/7/24 and life-flighted to Presbyterian. She was initially in the 4G ICU, but on 7/9/24 her lungs collapsed, and they had to put her on ECMO. This meant she had to be moved to the Cardiothoracic ICU, where we met Kathy.

Kathy told us about her long history at UPMC, and all the years of service and dedication she has put into taking care of others. Kathy was so compassionate, so above and beyond, she did so much for my daughter.

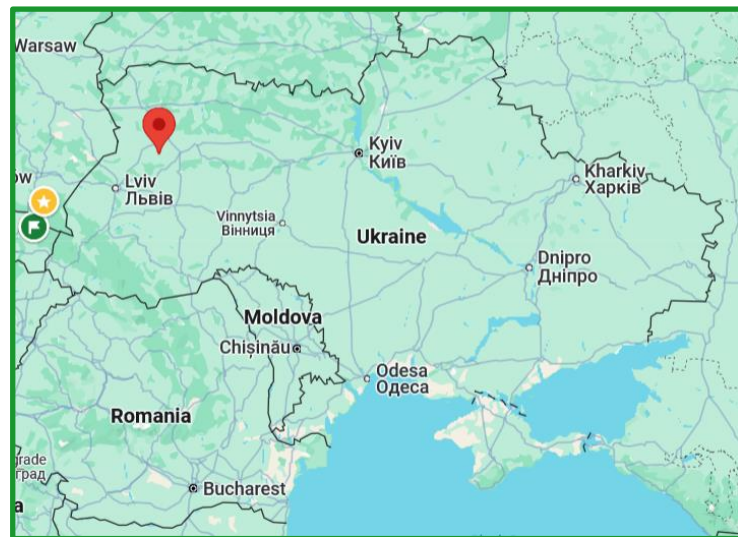
My daughter had a hard time regulating her temperature with her spinal trauma, and she kept shivering. Kathy said she had something that would help and came back with a hypothermia blanket that pumps itself full of hot air. My daughter finally relaxed and closed her eyes. Just something as small as being able to see my daughter finally comfortable and able to rest because she was warm, meant the world. Kathy is amazing and I hope she is recognized!

Daisy Award Criteria

Want to say thank you to your nurse? The DAISY (Diseases Attacking the Immune System) Award® is an international recognition program that honors and celebrates the skillful, compassionate care nurses provide every day. The DAISY Foundation was established by the family of J. Patrick Barnes after he died from complications of the auto-immune disease ITP in 1999. During his hospitalization, they deeply appreciated the care and compassion shown to Patrick and his entire family. When he died, they felt compelled to say "Thank You" to nurses in a very public way. Please say thank you by sharing your story of how a nurse made a difference you will never forget!



I am Marian Koval, I am 20 years old and I'm currently studying at St Sophia Theological Seminary, to become a priest. I've completed a year and a half of studies, focusing first on English and now on theology. I come from the village of Boremel in the Rivne region of Ukraine. Inspired by my father, who is also a priest, I've followed this path with dedication. I have a younger brother and sister in Ukraine, and my family's faith and support motivate me every step of the way.



Birthdays

1/6 Stephen Sheptak 1/8 John Declan Haluszczak 1/10 Melania Peters and Larissa Hudson

Remember in Prayer

Lyubba, Cecilia, Lena, Lottie, Evalyn, Collette, Eli, Victoria, Jamie, Theo, Pauline, Marianne

O Lord, Jesus Christ, the physician of souls & bodies, look down on your suffering servants, relieve them of their pain and suffering in order that they may be able to arise from their sick-bed and glorify your Holy Name. Amen!"

NOTE: 2024 prayer list was retired and a new one is started. Please submit names of those suffering illness (physical or spiritual) to Fr John to be listed

Christmas Schedule



Sunday January 5 – Decorate Church after Divine Liturgy

Monday January 6 – Sviata Veчерia 5:30 PM (contact Kira Senedak for pot luck coordination)

Compline (Znami Boh) 7:00 pm

Tuesday January 7 – Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM

Genealogy continued: Even scoundrels and sinners are included because this is the human condition. We are far from perfect. The thing is that even sinners and scoundrels have the image of God in them. Whether we are righteous or sinners we all have that in common. Human nature does not become evil because we do evil things. Impossible! What God has called "very good" will always remain "very good". That "very good" human nature we share in common is what Jesus took upon himself – your nature and my nature, everyone's nature and yet He still remained perfect God and perfect man! But there is more! Then, he took upon himself our suffering and sins and bore our diseases as well and still remained perfect God and perfect man! This is a very great mystery! He took upon Himself the whole of the human condition from birth to death and beyond and remained fully God and fully man! He took upon Himself all that we are in order to heal all that we are. Why? Because He loves us!

At Vespers we chant a prokeimenon that says, "The Lord is King, he has clothed himself with majesty. The Lord has put on His apparel and has girded Himself with strength." What is this "majesty"? What is "His apparel"? It is human nature. Human nature is majestic. It is beautiful! The crown of God's creation. It is filled with God as is everything he has made. That we have dirtied this beautiful thing is not God's fault; it is ours. What we discover as we embark on the interior spiritual journey is that no matter what we do, or think, or feel, underneath it all is human nature which sparkles with the light of God. It is the ground of our being, the truth of who we are. Those who come at long last through meditation and prayer to see their own essential goodness understand the core truth about themselves and their neighbors. The Son of God reveals this to us in the example of His own human/divine life.

We too, even though we are created, share this human/divine connection. In Him divinity is by nature. It is granted to us creatures by grace. The Incarnation reveals all this and more. This week, in the services and hymns, we will explore this unfathomable mystery. from Fr. Antony Hughes